

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) joined millions of Americans across the nation to honor the life of Cesar Chavez on his birthday and pledged to continue the fight in Congress for equal rights and fair working conditions.

“Today we celebrate the birth of one of our nation’s greatest civil rights leaders,” said Rep. Rodriguez. “Cesar Chavez devoted his life to improving the working and living conditions of America’s farm workers. His legacy of fair wages, pension benefits, and medical coverage has improved the lives of thousands of families. We owe a debt of gratitude to the work of this important trailblazer who tirelessly fought for those who did not have a voice.”

Congress has already taken several steps to honor the life of Cesar Chavez. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Cesar Estrada Chavez Study Act, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life of Cesar Chávez and the farm labor movement.

“Cesar Chavez strove for an America that treated its workers with fairness and dignity,” Rep. Rodriguez continued. “As we commemorate the life and accomplishments of this American hero, we must also redouble our efforts to achieve his vision of an America that promotes opportunity, equality, and justice for all. As Chavez said, ‘Si Se Puede.’”

In the spirit of Cesar Chavez’ lifelong struggle to provide a better life for our nation’s farm workers and their families, last Congress Democrats in the House voted to expand the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs, allowing the sons and daughters of our farmers to get an early start on their education.

Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona. In 1945 he joined the U.S. Navy, and served in the western Pacific during the end of World War II. Throughout his youth and into his adulthood, Cesar Chavez migrated across the southwest laboring in the fields and vineyards, where he was exposed to the hardships and injustices of a farm worker’s life. In 1962, Chavez and Dolores Huerta co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW), America’s first successful farm workers’ union. Cesar Chavez passed away on April 23, 1993, in San Luis, Arizona – a small village near Yuma.

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